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Why a Library?

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About the use of the Carnegie
Library of Homestead, Pennsyl-
vania, for the year 1913

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF HOMESTEAD

Founded and Endowed in 1898
by Andrew Carnegie

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

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DEPARTMENTS

With personnel May 1st, 1914

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

LILLIAN M. HIRTH.....Assistant Librarian
ESTELLA WOLF.....Cataloger
LILLIAN L. RAMSEY.....Children's Librarian
ESTELLA C. BOSSERT.....Desk Assistant
CAROLYN D. STEVENS.....Assistant

CARNEGIE LIBRARY CLUB

S. P. MIDDLETON.....Director
WILLIS J. MARSH.....Assistant
J. J. CAIN.....Assistant
ANDREW SCHMIDT.....Referee
JOHN McCAGUE.....Attendant
MICHAEL FAULKNER.....Natatorium
MRS. CHARLES N. TURNER.....Swimming
E. B. HOMER.....Bowling

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

A. W. SODERBERG.....Mechanical Drawing
A. F. WOLF.....Assistant Mechanical Drawing
C. C. MARSHALL.....English and Science
DANA DARSIE.....Assistant English and Science
F. L. ROSE.....Foreign-English
THOMAS H. JONES.....Symphony and Junior Orchestra
SHAD TINSLEY.....Organist

CARNEGIE MUSIC HALL

J. J. BANE.....Head Usher
ELLSWORTH DAVIES.....Usher
THOMAS BANE.....Usher
KENNETH FRANKLIN.....Usher
JOHN CROUCH.....Usher

GENERAL

WOODWARD J. HULL.....Assistant Secretary to the Board
W. W. BARBER.....Day Engineer
JOHN D. JONES.....Night Engineer
JOSEPH HUGHES.....Club Janitor
WILLIAM FIDLER.....Library Janitor
MAVONA WILLIS.....Office Boy

Why a Library?

The purposes of the library are the purposes of life; to attain health, mental power, character, and a high type of culture. This will not exclude the knowledge which will be of use in relation to business, domestic life, and good citizenship.

Literature can aid the health by imparting a knowledge of the means of its attainment and preservation, and by supplying that mental balance of the functions necessary to perfect health. Literature can build or destroy character. The book is the mould and as we read we become like it. Addison says:

Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body. As by the one, health is preserved, strengthened and invigorated: by the other virtue (which is the health of the mind) is kept alive, cherished and confirmed.

Literature may teach us about character and inspire us to attain it. Books on morals, religion, biography, science,

poetry, and fiction especially hold these treasures.

Accomplishments come from books of inspiration which teach the writing of clear and beautiful English.

Pleasure comes from the fact of reading a good book, because the reading of a good book is a "pure joy."

James Freeman Clarke adds his estimation of the use of the book.

"When I consider what some books have done for the world, and what they are doing ---how they keep up our hope, awaken new courage and faith, give an ideal life to those whose homes are hard and cold, bind together distant ages and foreign lands, create new worlds of beauty, bring down truths from Heaven,---I give eternal blessings for this gift, and pray that we may use it aright and abuse it not."

How successfully these ideals have been attained in the radius of this library may be told only in part.

If the 885 books that have been condemned during the year be deducted from the total accessions of 3,252, it will leave a net gain of 2,367 and a grand

total of 43,542 volumes in the library. The service these books have been to our community can never be told because of the impossibility of measuring influence.

The circulation of 249,560 is equal to eight books per capita. But not all the inhabitants of Homestead do or can read library books, only 11,850 readers are credited to this marked circulation which is equal to twenty-one books to each reader. This high rate is augmented by a use of 12,065 volumes in schools and stations where the circulation amounts to 150,621. This leaves for home use at the adult desk of 56,175, and 42,764 in the children's room which is a gain over last year of 479 while the loss at the adult desk is 4,739. The loss in the reading of fiction was 2.17 per cent. or a circulation of 5,415. Of the total circulation 44.33 per cent. was fiction.

Educational

The night school seems to be an outgrowth of a fault in our system of

education. Generally speaking we aim for mental efficiency instead of mental training. That is: a mind that is partially prepared for further instruction or self-education, rather than a mind trained for service that will make a livelihood. Of 100 boys that begin school in the first grade at the age of six only six enrol in the high school. One boy in three finishes the eighth grade; one boy in 150, the high school; and one in a thousand finishes the university. Four million boys from 14 to 20 years of age each waste from one to three years, neither fitted nor prepared for definite vocations.

"What can you do?"

"Nothing. I have just graduated from college."

This reply is a common occurrence. The night school teaches the student what he needs and likes. When necessary the night school indulges in vocational guidance, and often the vocation, itself, is provided.

Experts have declared that the night school adds to the actual earning power of each student \$150. At this rate the increase in value of our 283 students in regular night classes would be \$42,450.

The demand for the night school this season has been far beyond the resources of the library to meet. Several classes have virtually forced their way into the school. One hundred more students were enrolled than last year. The total attendance was 7,164. The success of this department is due to the interest and ability of the teachers, themselves. Their interest and influence is felt far beyond the class rooms.

Mr. Soderberg, the senior instructor, has served the mechanical drawing class 14 years. In that time the enrolment has been 430; the number of lessons 675; the attendance 15,517; and the number of individual lessons approximately 16,000. The quality of the work done in this class may be

judged from the fact that many of its students are filling important positions in the mills.

The three graduates, Mr. Michael Gra, Guydosh, Mr. Wilfred George Saalinge and Ferdinand Pomayer, are all from the mechanical drawing class.

Fully seventy-five of our students have entered the Carnegie Technical School. And these are only a part of the many students that have enrolled in this institution from Homestead.

The Male Chorus with 50 members and the Mixed Chorus with 75 members took a prominent part in the great International Eisteddfod held in Pittsburgh last July.

The free concerts given by the Symphony Orchestra, the Junior Orchestra and by Shad Tinsley, the organist, and the two choruses had an attendance of 7,500.

Carnegie Library Club

If we accept Adam Smith's dictum that "man is a gregarious animal with

social instincts" we may readily understand the need of a social centre. Sympathy is the root of many virtues. Public opinion is largely made up of our care for what others think of us, or a common sympathy.

During the year the Carnegie Library Club brought together a membership of 3,549. How frequently they met in games and social intercourse is indicated by a total attendance of 34,057; sixty thousand games of billiards; 1,000 members in gymnasium classes; 35 basket ball teams; 12,325 bowling games; 100 Boy Scouts; and, finally, 64,420 baths. Having no record that any other baths have been taken during the year, we conclude that each person in this community has taken only two and one-seventh baths. However if we consider the number that use the natatorium it averages forty-one and one-fifth baths per member. So you see this is equal to about one bath each week which is an indication of very good culture.

The Music Hall

The melody of the Music Hall's increased usefulness is more delightful than ever before. A gain of 15 events and 10,225 in attendance or a total of 56 dates with an attendance of 34,325. This is 4,300 more than the former high water mark. Out of the 56 events 26 were paid for, leaving 30 dates free.

The total attendance in all departments was 243,161, a gain of 5,611. The average net gain in all departments was 14 per cent.

A Worthy Minute

To guide successfully a great composite institution intended to contribute to all round culture of a great industrial centre, requires a man of sterling worth, abounding in human sympathy and intelligent guidance; one, who altho directing his ten thousand never loses sight of the individual whether it be a child or an aged veteran; one who can manage the greatest plant of its

and in the world and at the same time
e an example of American citizenship.
We are a nation of ideals. It is for-
tunate for a community when it can
ave a man at the head of its greatest
dustry who can not only marshal his
en for efficient service but at the same
me be their ideal fellow craftsman as
ell.

the ten years that Mr. A. R. Hunt has
een chairman of the Board of Directors
this library its usefulness has in-
eased 200 per cent. and this without
crease in endowment. Mr. Hunt's
ays of service may be numbered, but
e influence of his decade of service to
is community and to this library will
o on forever and forever.

Homestead

he community commonly known as
omestead is composed of Homestead,
lunhall, West Homestead, Homestead
ark, Lincoln Place, Franklin, Bellwood,
omeville, Whitaker and Hays. Al-
together there is a population of approxi-

mately 30,000. Of this population per cent. are black; 28.8 per cent. are foreign, and 30.2 per cent. are native. It has been said that Homestead is the most industrial spot on the face of the earth. This thought is inspired by the fact that it is the seat of the largest single plant in the U. S. Steel corporation. At times there are as high as 10,000 employees in the mills, alone. There are many other lesser manufacturing enterprises of national repute.

The industries of Homestead are not its greatest asset. The people, themselves, are the "stock in trade" that make Homestead known the world over. While 60 per cent. of the employees in the mills are foreigners many of these children of the sunny clime of Europe come to stay, and become useful American citizens. The remaining 40 per cent. is largely made up of skilled labor that represents the controlling element in the community.

The public schools rank among the

rst in the state. The Homestead high school compares favorably with Normal school. The Schwab Manual Training School has no superior in this part of the country. It is a rare occurrence when one sees a native that can neither read nor write.

The mills attract technical graduates from all the leading schools in the county. This has the effect of bringing to Homestead many more highly cultured families.

The Carnegie Library with its social center features, such as: the athletic department with an annual membership of 3,549; the night school with an enrolment of 560; the music hall with an annual attendance of 34,000; and the free library with a circulation of 49,560 indicate a pronounced taste on the part of the people for the things that count for culture and happiness. The welfare department of the Homestead Steel Works conducts play grounds in the summer time and directs

the physical culture in the school during the winter.

The social side of Homestead life is also exemplified by the numerous lodge probably 50 in all with a membership of fully 5,000.

The United Literary clubs is a federation of 30 literary and study clubs with a membership of 1,000. The moral aspect of this community is well cared for by the 37 churches that set the pace and keep the town in the lead along the line of religion and morals. The Business Men's Association and the Chamber of Commerce represents the spirit of co-operation on the part of the hundreds of energetic business men who are responsible for the marked success of Homestead's "Broadway".

Why a library? How can this community avoid having a library when it is made up of such a cosmopolitan class of people whose needs and demands are always for the highest class of entertainment and instruction.

experience has proven that Homestead shows a good thing when it sees it; but it must be shown. Few towns of this size spend more money for the comfort of life, and likewise for the pleasure of life. The hearty support given all altruistic and educational efforts is not only a compliment to the efforts" but to the people of this community, as well.

Librarian's Report read before the
Annual Educational Exhibition.

Comparative Statistics 1912 - 1913

Library	1912	1913	Gain	Loss
Inventory	41175	43542	2367	.....
Accessions	3301	3252	.....	49
Condemned	3119	885	.....	2234
Circulation---Total	252477	249560	.....	2917
Adult desk.....	60914	56175	.....	4739
Juvenile desk.....	42285	42764	479	.....
Schools	121487	120931	.....	556
Stations.....	27791	29690	1899	.....
Percentage of fiction...	46.5	44.33	.....	2.17
Attendance---Total....	118218	121142	2924	.....
Adult.....	80000	75400	.....	4600
Juvenile.....	38282	45742	7460	.....
Readers.....	12000	11850	.....	150
Average Percentage....	.....	.....	3.1	.....
Educational				
Attendance	8600	9840	1240	.....
Scientific.....	4246	5227	981	..
Musical	4354	4613	259	.....
Students	452	560	108	.....
Study Clubs.....	33	30	.....	3
Membership	1381	1054	.....	327
Average Percentage....	.....	.....	19	.....
The Club				
Membership				
Average---Monthly.	1153	1310	157	.....
Employees ..	415	486	71	.....
Non-Employees ...	212	229	17	.....
Boys.....	352	433	81	.....
Girls	100	101	1	.....
Ladies.....	77	61	.....	16
Different Members.	3223	3549	326	.....
Gymnasium	757	997	240	.....
Attendance---Total....	79657	84057	4400	.....
Gymnasium (4,099				
Basket Ball)	16552	15571	.....	981
Natatorium.....	55929	64420	8491	.....
Bowling (Individual				
games)	16330	12325	.....	4005
Average Percentage....	.....	.....	6	.....
Music Hall				
Events	41	56	15	.....
Attendance	24100	34325	10225	.....
Average Percentage....	.....	.....	28	.....
Attendance---Grand				
Total	237157	242161	5611	.....
Total Average				
Percentage.....	.....	.....	14	.....
Population .....	.....	30000	.....	.....

Educational Department

SEASON OF 1913 - 1914

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Rev. Benjamin B. Wolf

Rev. John J. Bullion

Thomas R. Davies

FACULTY

W. F. Stevens, Director

A. W. Soderberg, Mechanical Drawing

A. F. Wolf, Mechanical Drawing

C. C. Marshall, Scientific and Literary

Dana Darsie, Scientific and Literary

Miss Bessie White, Commercial

F. L. Rose, English for Foreigners

Thomas H. Jones, Director Orchestras

Shad Tinsley, Organist

ENROLMENT BY BRANCHES

Mechanical Drawing	56	Higher Branches, Con'd.	
Common Branches		History and Civics	2
Reading	3	Latin	6
Writing	37	Physics	26
Spelling	45	Commercial	
Arithmetic	55	Stenography	15
Grammar	45	Typewriting	15
Higher Branches		Bookkeeping	10
Algebra	36	Foreign-English	29
Geometry	7	Metallurgy	50
Geography	2	Symphony Orchestra	35
Physiology	1	Junior Orchestra	28
Different Students			283
Total Attendance			7,164

POPULATION OF HOMESTEAD AND VICINITY

CLASSES	RELATIVE PERCENTAGES	TOTALS
Black	5.2%	1,520
Foreign	28.6%	8,580
Foreign-Native	30%	9,100
Native	36%	10,800
Total	100%	30,000

EMPLOYEES IN THE HOMESTEAD STEEL WORKS

CLASSES	RELATIVE PERCENTAGES	TOTALS
Black	1.8%	180
English, Irish, Scotch, German	16.6%	1,660
Native	28.4%	2,840
Slav	53.2%	5,320
Total	100%	10,000

CIRCULATION BY YEARS WITH TOTAL



